Rev. Samuel May, Jr.

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My dear Mr May — My son Richard intends to start from home for California immediately ~~in a very few days~~, via Cork, New York & the Isthmus. He will be only a very few days in New York so that he is not likely to see many of my friends — but I don't like to miss the opportunity of sending you a few lines. The usual & best plan for young men in this country who mean to make their way in business is to spend some years in situations, in the employment of others, in order to gain that kind of experience which enables them to get along safely by themselves. Richard finds this irksome at home & prefers trying his chance abroad. He is steady, well conducted, upright & of irreproachable character, & though I am not gifted with large hope, nor prone, like Mr Garrison, to "think my geese all swans", I do hope he will succeed in the long run. — Although he has had some hard rubs, & must get some more, still he has never been indebted to any man without paying him in full & is, I hope, never likely to be so.

I enclose a carte for your book of that charming & excellent woman Eliza Wigham. She is no longer young. Yet I find it difficult to regard her otherwise than as a lovely young woman. I have lately been spending about 10 days in Edinburgh at the Annual Meeting of the British Association for Promotion of Social Science.

I stopped with some friends — an old printer & his wife — the latter well known for her benevolence & philanthropy. She delighted in talking of E Wigham whom she said stood at the top of her list. I introduced James Haughton (my townsman) to my hostess and she was equally delighted with him. James is indeed a very worthy man, but so crotchetty that it is difficult to work with him. He holds back his opinion from nobody — so I don't like him to get into the company of Northern men whose susceptibilities he ~~wd~~ wound by his unlimited condemnation of the war. He maintains that no nation or people ever gained their liberties or maintained any possession worth having, by the sword! I also send you a tract by Professor Cairnes which you may not have seen before. Caroline Weston was greatly pleased with it. By the way she means to return to Boston early next month, along with her niece Anne Chapman. Anne is a dashing, fashionable, handsome girl & I am surprised she has not been "picked up" here. She would make a very good English peeress, as to beauty, manners, & bearing. This is of course entre nous. For the Westons don't like to be talked about — & I have nothing but what is good to say of them.

I have latterly sent The (London) Spectator, a very able paper & pro Northern in its tendencies, to you & I mark on it for E. Q. with the intention that if quite convenient to you, you should pass it on to him, as I think he would like to see it

While in Edinburgh I dined with Mrs Nichol, (formerly Elizabeth Pease) at her very fine country house where she lives with her late husband's sister as her companion. She is a cordial good hearted woman. We talked over old times & she showed me her American letters & her file of the Liberator, which she means to deposit in the British Museum by will. She is, like myself, rather a lover of likenesses, and as she has a great wish to have some of ~~the~~ her old anti-slavery friends, I have written to a young Irish friend of mine Mr William Forbes (an engraver or printer in Boston) & have sent him a list of the places where he can get those I wish for — with a request to call on you for the cost of them. I believe the best way ~~[illegible]~~ to send them will be by post. Mrs Nichol told me she has written repeatedly to Garrison who has never answered her letters. This is too bad, for she has always been a warm &, I think, a generous friend of his. This thing of not replying to or acknowledging letters is looked on almost an offence in England, & is one of the things that indicate that the offender is no gentleman. Rev. H. W. Beecher has given great offence & caused no little inconvenience in this way, during his present visit to England. So did Dr Cheever. Eliza Wigham alone got up the most crowded meeting for H. W. B. that has been held in Edinburgh for (it is said) 20 years & yet she found great inconvenience from this kind of neglect. She wrote to him & got no answer — and the meeting was gathered & the late Lord Provost of the city, Duncan McLaren (John Bright's brother in law) who was to act as chairman, was in (I think I may say) a great fright lest the hero of the evening should not appear at all. However he walked ~~[illegible]~~ in, in the ~~[illegible]~~ nick of time, into the vestry room, & it was with great difficulty, indeed immense difficulty, that he was able to make his way to the platform ticket. I never was so crushed. He had been invited to stop at McLarens — but he neither came nor answered the invitation. Then small non observances create prejudice & are attributed to want of manners. If anything could be past doubt, it was that the meeting was 20 to 1 with Beecher — so in Manchester — so in Glasgow — so in ~~Lon~~ Manchester — & so in Liverpool although, there, the Southern interest is strong & the opposition rowdyish & disgusting. You know I am no Englishman — nor any special admirer of England on the whole no more than I am of Americans indiscriminately, — but I firmly believe that in the long run the great majority of Northern Americans, as well as of Englishmen, will be found to be on the side of freedom & I am most desirous that they shall not go to fighting with one another if they can keep from it. I have infinitely less confidence in my own Catholic countrymen — they are fanatically for their priests or their party, & very few of them have any idea of constitutional freedom. They are a most dangerous element in your social & political system. For their own sakes I am glad, for your sakes I am sorry to see them leaving Ireland. They are a source of weakness, disorder & great mischief to your future stability. Their attitude towards the blacks is ~~disgusting~~ abominable. And yet it is a fact that, if you take 100 English men & 100 Irishmen at random from the lower classes, you are likely to find more courtesy & general true civilisation among the latter than the former. But I believe the Catholic Irish show to more advantage at home than anywhere else. — Whenever you write I will hope to hear of your sons health & prosperity — With kind regards to your circle I am ever Yours truly

Richd D Webb

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